

HICKEL COGHILL

RECALL COMMITTEE

A non-partisan group of Alaskans working for a better Alaska

Alaska II Recall
Steering Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 1992

Recall Committee Cites Intimidation

Members of the Hickel/Coghill Recall Committee were served with a lawsuit on Saturday by Lt. Governor Jack Coghill. The suit asks the court to: 1) throw out the grounds for recalling Coghill; 2) prohibit signature gathering for the recall of Coghill; and 3) order the defendants to pay the legal costs that Coghill incurs while attempting to kill the recall. The State of Alaska and Howard Scaman are also named as defendants.

Ed Davis, a member of the Hickel/Coghill Recall Committee, reacted by saying: "This is intimidation, pure and simple. By targeting individuals in a volunteer effort, Coghill is setting a chilling precedent. He is using his office to harass citizens who followed legal procedures for a recall that they felt was required to clean up state government."

Another member of the Recall Committee, Martin Nickerson, commented: "When we collected enough

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signatures for Phase I, we turned them in. The Division of Elections certified them with Coghill's blessing. If Coghill has a problem with the grounds, he should sue the Division of Elections. He chose instead to intimidate us with his lawsuit."

A central issue in the recall grounds is Coghill's intimidation of recall volunteers. Nickerson stated that, "It's ironic that Coghill's lawsuit to throw out the recall grounds can be used to demonstrate that the grounds are indeed valid."

According to Sean McGuire, a Fairbanks carpenter who gathered a quarter of the Phase I signatures, "Coghill is arbitrarily using the courts to punish us. All I did was exercise my constitutional right to petition the government. Nobody should be put into the position of paying the legal costs for my activities."

Howard Scaman is also named as a defendant. Scaman is not a member of the Recall Committee. Scaman was a co-author of the grounds used in the Hickel/Coghill recall petitions but dropped out of the movement when he left the state. Scaman recently returned to the state and started a push to recall Hickel only. According to Davis, Scaman has no standing in the case.

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